

Plenty of light ideas for future

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WHEN thinking about lighting your home, there is so much more to lighting than downlights, which is often the 'go-to' solution.

Lighting affects your mood in so many ways, so multiple options means you can adjust it to reflect your requirements at any time.

This also means future proofing your lighting so it meets your requirements now, but could also work if the use of a room changes.

There are three aspects to think about when creating flexible and adequate lighting options. These are ambient or mood lighting, task lighting and decorative lighting.

Ambient lighting creates mood, and softens a space. It creates a relaxed feel and is often used when watching TV or when you want to create a sense of calm.

It is achieved with the use of lamps, up and down lights and pendants.

Task lighting is exactly that — it allows you to perform a task. It needs to provide a good source of light.

Up lights, wall washes and directional spot lights are all good choices for this.

Decorative lighting is generally achieved with pendants or lamps. They not only look wonderful in a room, but also create mood and ambient lighting at the same time.

Many people choose to have a decorative pendant light over the dining table to create a lovely aesthetic.

An up-light, wall wash, or strip light could be installed so the dining table has lighting set up for tasks.

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Right lighting choices can show a home in the best light for years.

TIPS FOR LIGHTING DESIGN

- Never only use downlights as the only light source in a home. They should be used in conjunction with other lighting options
- Think through the choice of ambient, task and decorative lighting in each space to ensure your selection provides for flexibility in how you can use the room, and that it is ideally lit for all scenarios you might use the room for
- Consider how pendant lights and lamps will work with your interior design. This involves thinking about the materials and colours you will use in the room
- Always opt for good quality LED fittings to maximise energy efficiencies and savings. Cheaper fittings may only last for a short time

